

distributing the analog audio signal and the analog video signal to the analog wireline device.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 29 have been amended to more particularly point out and claim the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-30 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been added by the amendment. Entry of the foregoing amendment is requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9-10, 12-13, 16-18, and 21-30, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kostreski et al. (US Patent No. 5,729,549, hereinafter "Kostreski et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 29 call for, among other things, a system and method for distributing audio and/or video content of a digital audio signal and a digital video signal to an analog wireline device, where a digital audio signal and a digital video signal are received and an audio bitstream and video bitstream identified, where the audio bitstream is comprised of audio data based on a plurality of encoding methods and the video bitstream is comprised of video data based on a plurality of encoding methods. Further, an audio decoding unit decodes the audio bitstream for conversion to an analog audio signal and a video decoding unit decodes the video bitstream data for conversion to an analog video signal, for transmission to an analog wireline device. Support for the additional language can be found on page 10, lines 23-28, and page 13, lines 5-11 of the specification.

The cited prior art does not teach or suggest decoding audio or video data that is based on a plurality of encoding methods. As will be discussed, Kostreski et al. teaches a single, specific encoding method (MPEG). By contrast, the claimed invention teaches the use of multiple encoding methods in operation. Kostreski et al. teaches a broadband network providing substantially concurrent distribution of multiple RF channels from separately located transmitters (column 1, lines 16-20). Kostreski et al. goes on to teach that a digital audio/video processor (125) transmits and processes MPEG encoded signals

(column 21, lines 8-30). Kostreski et al. further teaches that MPEG audio and video decoders (129 and 131) processes MPEG encoded signals (column 21, lines 32-43). Kostreski et al. does not teach or suggest other encoding methods besides MPEG, nor does the apparatus and method taught by Kostreski et al. disclose or teach encoding and decoding of multiple encoding formats. Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 29 call for, among other things, *receiving a digital audio signal and a digital video signal and identifying an audio bitstream and a video bitstream, where the audio bitstream is comprised of audio data based on a plurality of encoding methods, and decoding the audio bitstream for conversion to an analog audio signal; and where the video bitstream is comprised of video data based on a plurality of encoding methods, and decoding the video bitstream for conversion to an analog video signal*. Since Kostreski et al. does not contain at least these features of the applicants' amended claims 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 29, it does not include all of the elements of applicants' amended claims 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 29 and therefore cannot anticipate applicants' amended independent claims.

Claims 2 and 4-5 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable over the relied on reference of Kostreski et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 10 and 12-13 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 9 and are believed to be allowable over the relied on reference of Kostreski et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

Claims 17-18 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 16 and are believed to be allowable over the relied on reference of Kostreski et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 16.

Claims 22-24 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 21 and are believed to be allowable over the relied on reference of Kostreski et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 21.

Claims 26-28 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 25 and are believed to be allowable over the relied on reference of Kostreski et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 25.

Claim 30 depends directly from claim 29 and is believed to be allowable over the relied on reference of Kostreski et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 29.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kostreski et al. Claims 6, 14 and 19 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kostreski et al. in view of Bertram (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,546). Claims 7-8, 15 and 20 were rejected under 35.U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kostreski et al. in view of Schulhof et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,979). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 6-8 depend from claim 1, either directly or indirectly, and are believed to be allowable over the relied on references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 11 and 14-15 depend from claim 9, either directly or indirectly, and are believed to be allowable over the relied on references for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 16, either directly or indirectly, and are believed to be allowable over the relied on references for at least the same reasons as claim 16.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

The references cited but not relied upon are not believed to anticipate or make obvious applicants' invention.

Summary

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 13-4771.

Respectfully submitted,
REINOLD ET AL.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin D. Wills".

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12 has been amended as follows:

Method and System for Broadcasting Digital Audio and Video to an Analog Wireless Device, filed 05/04/1998, [_____,] having serial no. 09/071,045. [(Docket MCG00216).]

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 16 has been deleted.

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 20 has been deleted.

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 24 has been amended as follows:

Method and System for Broadcasting/Distributing Digital Audio and Video to a Television, filed 05/04/1998, [_____,] having serial no. 09,071,368. [(Docket MCG00224).]

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 28 has been amended as follows:

Method and System for Broadcasting Digital Audio to Radio, filed 05/04/1998, [_____,] having serial no. 09/071,047. [(Docket MCG00225).]

In the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for distributing audio content of a digital audio signal to a analog wireline device, comprising:

an audio input interface receiving the digital audio signal and identifying an audio bitstream, wherein the audio bitstream comprises audio data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

an audio decoding unit connected to the audio input interface and decoding the audio bitstream;

an audio digital to analog converter connected to the audio decoding unit and converting the audio bitstream to an analog audio signal; and

an audio output interface connected to the audio digital to analog converter and distributing the analog audio signal to the analog wireline device.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) A system for distributing video content of a digital video signal to a analog wireline device, comprising:

a video input interface receiving the digital video signal and identifying a video bitstream, wherein the video bitstream comprises video data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

a video decoding unit connected to the video input interface and decoding the video bitstream;

a video digital to analog converter connected to the video decoding unit and converting the video bitstream to an analog video signal; and

a video output interface connected to the video digital to analog converter and distributing the analog video signal to the analog wireline device.

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (Amended) A system for distributing audio and video content of a digital audio signal and a digital video signal to an analog wireline device, comprising:

an audio input interface receiving the digital audio signal and identifying an audio bitstream, wherein the audio bitstream comprises audio data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

an audio decoding unit connected to the audio input interface and decoding the audio bitstream;

an audio digital to analog converter connected to the audio decoding unit and converting the audio bitstream to an analog audio signal;

an audio output interface connected to the audio digital to analog converter and distributing the analog audio signal to the analog wireline device;

a video input interface receiving the digital video signal and identifying a video bitstream, wherein the video bitstream comprises video data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

a video decoding unit connected to the video input interface and decoding the video bitstream;

a video digital to analog converter connected to the video decoding unit and converting the video bitstream to an analog video signal;

a video output interface connected to the video digital to analog converter and distributing the analog video signal to the television; and

a synchronization unit connected to the audio output interface and the video output interface and synchronizing the analog audio signal and the analog video signal.

Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21. (Amended) A method for distributing audio content of a digital audio signal to an analog wireline device, comprising the steps of:

receiving the digital audio signal and identifying an audio bitstream, wherein the audio bitstream comprises audio data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

decoding the audio bitstream;

converting the audio bitstream to an analog audio signal; and

distributing the analog audio signal to the analog wireline device.

Claim 25 has been amended as follows:

25. (Amended) A method for distributing video content of a digital video signal to an analog wireline device, comprising the steps of:

receiving the digital video signal and identifying a video bitstream, wherein the video bitstream comprises video data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

decoding the video bitstream;

converting the video bitstream to an analog video signal; and

distributing the analog video signal to the analog wireline device.

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

29. (Amended) A method for distributing audio and video content of a digital audio signal and a digital video signal to an analog wireline device, comprising the steps of:

receiving the digital audio signal and identifying an audio bitstream, wherein the audio bitstream comprises audio data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

decoding the audio bitstream;

converting the audio bitstream to an analog audio signal;

receiving the digital video signal and identifying a video bitstream, wherein the video bitstream comprises video data based on a plurality of encoding methods;

decoding the video bitstream;

converting the video bitstream to an analog video signal; and

distributing the analog audio signal and the analog video signal to the analog wireline device.